

Phonetics and the Universe

Phonetics · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. The word 'Mars' begins with a bilabial nasal consonant sound. Which planet is Mars?

- A) The first planet
- B) The fourth planet**
- C) The eighth planet
- D) The dwarf planet

2. The word 'Sun' starts with a voiceless alveolar fricative. What is the Sun?

- A) A star**
- B) A moon
- C) A planet
- D) An asteroid

3. The word 'Moon' starts with a bilabial nasal. How many moons does Earth have?

- A) Zero
- B) One**
- C) Two
- D) Ten

4. The word 'Venus' ends with a voiceless alveolar fricative. Which position from the Sun is Venus?

- A) First
- B) Second**
- C) Third
- D) Fourth

5. The word 'Pluto' ends in a vowel sound. What is Pluto classified as?

- A) A star
- B) A comet
- C) A dwarf planet**
- D) A galaxy

6. The word 'Earth' begins with a vowel sound. What is the shape of Earth?

- A) Flat
- B) Square
- C) Spherical**
- D) Cylindrical

7. The word 'Saturn' starts with a voiceless alveolar fricative. What is Saturn famous for?

- A) Its rings**
- B) Its oceans
- C) Its green color
- D) Its human life

8. The word 'Jupiter' starts with a voiced palato-alveolar affricate. Which is the largest planet?

- A) Mercury
- B) Mars
- C) Jupiter**
- D) Neptune

9. The word 'Orion' begins with a vowel. What is Orion?

- A) A constellation**
- B) A planet
- C) A sun
- D) An asteroid

10. The word 'Nebula' starts with a nasal consonant. What is a nebula primarily made of?

- A) Solid rock
- B) Dust and gas**
- C) Liquid water
- D) Hard metal

11. The word 'Galaxy' starts with a voiced velar plosive. What is the name of our galaxy?

- A) Andromeda
- B) Milky Way**
- C) Triangulum
- D) Whirlpool

12. The word 'Comet' starts with a voiceless velar plosive. What are comets mostly made of?

- A) Ice and dust**
- B) Solid iron
- C) Molten lava
- D) Pure oxygen

13. The word 'Asteroid' starts with a vowel. Where are most asteroids found in our solar system?

A) Between Mars and Jupiter

- B) Near the Sun
- C) Behind Pluto
- D) Inside the Earth

14. The word 'Mercury' starts with a bilabial nasal. Which planet is closest to the Sun?

- A) Venus
- B) Earth

C) Mercury

- D) Mars

15. The word 'Uranus' starts with a vowel sound. What color is Uranus often described as?

- A) Red
- B) Yellow

C) Blue-green

- D) Black

16. The word 'Neptune' starts with a nasal. How many giant planets are in our solar system?

- A) Two

B) Four

- C) Six
- D) Eight

17. The word 'Gravity' starts with a voiced velar plosive. What does gravity do to objects in space?

- A) Pushes them away

B) Attracts them

- C) Makes them invisible
- D) Freezes them

18. The word 'Orbit' starts with a vowel. What does a planet do when it orbits the Sun?

- A) Stops moving

B) Travels around it

- C) Falls into it
- D) Explodes